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The Friday Newsletter

No. 27

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July 6, 1984

FS and McCulloch Begin New Fire Pre- vention Program

AT SPECIAL ceremonies held June 29 in Washington, D.C., the Forest Service and the McCulloch Corporation signed an agreement that initiates a new fire prevention education program. During the next three years, McCulloch will include Smokey Bear and FS fire prevention messages in a program that promotes the use of USDA-approved fire prevention equipment on all gasoline-powered outdoor products and tools.

The objectives of the agreement are: 1. to increase public awareness of potential fire hazards resulting from the use of these products and tools; 2. to increase users' awareness of their liability for fire suppression costs and damages; 3. to promote an understanding of proper maintenance procedures to insure efficient power tool performance. In addition to licensing the use of Smokey Bear by McCulloch, we will also provide technical assistance in achieving the program's objectives. Smokey and McCulloch's Billy and Barney Beaver will serve as the official "spokes-animals" for the program.

A-V Program on Wil- derness Ethics Available

A NEW 11-minute audio-visual program on wilderness ethics has been completed by Region 4, with help from Regions 6 and 1. The program, which is designed to be shown to organizations using unroaded areas, has been seen by 165 Boy Scout troops in the Salt Lake City area and is being used in regional Boy Scouts of America training sessions across the country. The program was initiated by Ranger Wayne Anderson of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's Kamas District. The program, titled "Leave No Trace," may be purchased in the following formats (add \$4 handling if you're west of the Mississippi, \$6 if east):

- * 35 mm slides and tape (specify silent or audible cue), including tray -- \$35
- * 3/4-inch U-matic video tape-- \$25
- * 1/2-inch VHS video tape -- \$20

Send purchase orders to:

Reynolds Graphics, Inc.

4885 S. 9th E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84117

Budget Advances

ON JUNE 28, the House Appropriations Committee completed markup on our 1985 Appropriations Bill. Major items include (in millions of dollars):
(turn page please)

	President's Proposed Budget	House Committee Action	Total
National Forest System	\$1,036.9	+\$4.5	\$1,041.4
Construction	253.9	+ 6.9	260.8
Research	103.0	+17.6	120.6
S&PF	25.5	+35.9	61.4
Land Acquisition	9.6	+54.4	64.0

Subcommittee markup in the Senate tentatively is scheduled for July 26. We still are early in the Appropriations process. No action should be planned as a result of the House Markup. Further details will be provided in future issues of the FNL.

Timber Buy-out Plan Opposed

ON JUNE 27, Deputy Secretary Richard Lyng testified before the House Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms and Energy on H.R. 5649, the "Federal Timber Contract Payment Modification Act." This bill would direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to allow purchasers of timber to "buy-out" of a portion of the timber sales contracts they hold and thus terminate their obligations to complete the contracts. The bill would apply to sales bid prior to January 1, 1982, and is directed at those contracts bid during the 1977-80 period at prices higher than the current market will support.

USDA's testimony opposed the bill on the basis that it would create inequities between members of the forest products industry and would be costly and difficult to administer. Lyng took special exception in his testimony to the provision in the bill that would place a limit on the annual volume of timber that would be offered for sale in Region 6, saying that it could have the effect of halting the offering of new sales needed by some purchasers. The annual limit could also have a serious impact on the workload and staffing of the Region. Lyng recommended that the Subcommittee delay action on the bill until the Administration's five-year extension program has been given a chance to work.

Proposed Change in CZM Act Opposed

On June 26, Associate Chief Dale Robertson and representatives from other affected agencies accompanied Deputy Attorney General Carol Dinkins during her testimony before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Dinkins' testimony was in opposition to H.R. 4589, a bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The bill and associated hearings are in response to a recent Supreme Court decision that offshore leasing activities are no longer subject to the requirement of the Act, which stipulates that federal activities must be consistent with state programs conducted in coastal zones. In an attempt to alter this situation, the bill would extend the consistency requirement both seaward and landward for activities that could have a significant impact on coastal zones. The Administration believes the proposed legislation could cause major disruptions for ongoing programs and feels the bill is an unnecessary duplication of existing processes.

Oregon Wilderness Act Signed; Other Bills Progress

With regard to Forest Service activities, the bill's requirements could result in additional coordination with state Coastal Zone Management Boards for forest management activities already covered under other programs. This would include activities developed under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, NEPA, NFMA, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

THESE HAVE been two busy weeks for action on wilderness legislation. Among the significant activities that took place were the following:

Oregon Wilderness: On June 26, President Reagan signed the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984, P.L. 98-328. This Act establishes approximately 855,000 acres of new wilderness in Oregon and creates an 86,000-acre area that will be known as the Oregon Cascade Recreation Area.

Washington Wilderness: On June 18, the House passed the Washington Wilderness bill, S. 837, without amendment. This bill designates over 1 million acres of additional wilderness in Washington. President Reagan signed the bill July 3.

Colorado Wilderness: The House also passed the Colorado Wilderness Addition bill, H.R. 5426, on June 18. This bill would designate an additional 566,000 acres of wilderness in Colorado and would create a National Monument for the Wheeler-Wasson Geologic Area on the Rio Grande National Forest. We are opposed to this bill because its designations are not consistent with the recommendations resulting from the forest planning and wilderness studies. These studies were made in compliance with the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980. To date, there has been no action in the Senate on this bill.

California Wilderness: On June 28, Senstors Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) and Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) held a joint news conference to announce that they had reached agreement on a California wilderness bill. Their proposed legislation would classify 1.8 million acres of National Forest System lands in California as wilderness as opposed to the 2.4 million-acre wilderness proposal included in H.R. 1437, sponsored by the late Congressman Phil Burton. The compromise bill also includes a Wild and Scenic River designation for 83 miles of the Tuolumne River and the designation of a Mono Basin National Scenic Area.

Idaho Wilderness: Although it occurred over two weeks ago, I'd like to mention my June 14 testimony on the Idaho Forest Management Bill, H.R. 5425. In my remarks to the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, I said we were generally supportive of the bill which would designate over 500,000 acres of additional wilderness in the state. I also said we hoped that the wilderness issue for Idaho would be resolved in this 98th Congress. The Subcommittee is scheduled to visit many of the proposed wildernesses between July 5 and July 11. Although field hearings are not scheduled, the Subcommittee plans to meet with numerous groups and individuals during the visit.

**Hearing Held on
Special Use Bills**

ON JUNE 28, Deputy Assistant Secretary Doug MacCleery testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water concerning H.R. 2838, S. 2692, and H.R. 2982.

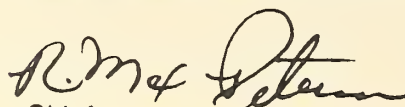
The first of these bills would authorize the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to provide surplus tree seedlings and technical assistance in their planting to public and private organizations volunteering to plant them on federal, state, and local government lands. Section 3 of this bill, added during House committee consideration, would exempt those fees charged holders of permits for organization camps on National Forest System lands if they are non-profit and volunteer to perform public services that support Forest Service programs.

Doug stated that if Section 3 were deleted, USDA would have no objection to H.R. 2838. He pointed out that authority already exists to provide waivers of fees for certain qualifying non-profit organizations. The volunteer program that the bill would establish, although already authorized to some extent by the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972, would complement our existing volunteer program. Doug did indicate that, in recognition of the potential conflict with our ongoing reforestation program and the proposed program's potential cost, we would use discretion in carrying it out.

Doug also told the subcommittee that USDA strongly opposes H.R. 2982 and S. 2692. These bills would exempt holders of grants for water conveyance or irrigation systems on NFS and public lands from paying fees and abiding by the environmental and other conditions required by section 501 of FLPMA. He said we believe these bills were prompted by concerns of certain water conveyance system permittees about the implementation of FLPMA's Title V through regulations issued by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. In his testimony, Doug discussed these concerns and the actions we have taken or plan to take to alleviate them. Our position in opposition to S. 2692 and H.R. 2892 is based on the belief that the bills' provisions go considerably beyond what is necessary to respond to the legitimate concerns of the permittees. Doug recommended that the subcommittee withhold action on the bills so that we can seek to resolve the permittees' concerns by administrative actions.

**Clean Water Bill
Gets House
Approval**

FOLLOWING A series of compromises, the House passed H.R. 3283, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. In addition to various changes and amendments to existing point source pollution programs, the bill proposes that funding be provided to the states for implementing programs designed to control nonpoint source pollution. The Senate's companion bill, S. 431, has been passed out of committee but has not yet been scheduled for floor action.


Chief